

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2634

To encourage the use of remote sensing to promote better agricultural management in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 1993

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (for himself and Mr. BROWN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Agriculture

A BILL

To encourage the use of remote sensing to promote better agricultural management in the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. REMOTE SENSING FOR AGRICULTURAL AND**
4 **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

6 (1) the use of remote sensing data is potentially
7 a valuable resource to anticipate potential food, feed,
8 and fiber shortages or excesses, and to provide this
9 information to the agricultural community in time to
10 assist farmers with planting decisions;

1 (2) remote sensing data can be useful to predict
2 impending famine problems and forest infestations
3 in time to allow remedial action;

4 (3) remote sensing data can inform the agricul-
5 tural community as to the condition of crops and the
6 land which sustains those crops;

7 (4) remote sensing data can be useful to allow
8 farmers to apply pesticides, nutrients, and water,
9 among other inputs, to farmlands in the exact
10 amounts necessary to maximize crop yield, thereby
11 reducing agricultural costs and minimizing potential
12 harm to the environment;

13 (5) remote sensing data can be valuable, when
14 received on a timely basis, in determining the needs
15 of additional plantings of a particular crop or a sub-
16 stitute crop; and

17 (6) the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
18 istration, using the expertise of the Earth Observa-
19 tions Commercialization Applications Program, and
20 the Department of Agriculture should work in tan-
21 dem to aid farmers to obtain data conducive to
22 sound agricultural management and greater crop
23 yields.

24 (b) INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary of
25 Agriculture and the Administrator of the National Aero-

1 nautics and Space Administration, maximizing private
2 funding and involvement, shall provide farmers and other
3 interested persons with timely information, through re-
4 mote sensing, on crop conditions, fertilization and irriga-
5 tion needs, pest infiltration, soil conditions, projected food,
6 feed, and fiber production, and any other information
7 available through remote sensing.

8 (c) ENHANCED REMOTE SENSING PROGRAM.—

9 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Ad-
10 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
11 Administration shall jointly evaluate the need for a
12 radar imaging platform that could enhance United
13 States remote sensing capability by providing infor-
14 mation and data relating to agricultural resources,
15 and which may have other commercial and research
16 applications.

17 (2) In the event that there is a finding of need
18 for a platform as set forth in subsection (1), the
19 Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of
20 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
21 shall jointly develop a proposal, which maximizes
22 private funding and involvement in the launch and
23 operation of such platform, and in the management
24 and dissemination of the data from such platform.
25 The Secretary and the Administrator shall jointly

1 submit the proposal, within thirty days of its devel-
2 opment, to the House Committee on Agriculture, the
3 Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
4 Forestry, the House Committee on Science, Space,
5 and Technology, and the Senate Committee on Com-
6 merce, Science, and Transportation.

7 (d) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Agriculture and the
8 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
9 ministration shall jointly develop a proposal to inform
10 farmers and other prospective users concerning the use
11 and availability of remote sensing data.

12 (e) SUNSET.—The provisions of this Act shall expire
13 five years after the date of its enactment.

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